

Issue 11
May 13, 2005

Inside This Issue:

Navy Nurse Corps Marks 97th Anniversary: A Historical Perspective	2
DoD to Resume Anthrax Vaccinations	2
Hospital Corpsman Earns Bronze Star for Providing Combat Care to Iraqi Troops	3
Navy Nurse Corps: 97 Years of Care and Commitment	4
Pensacola Dental Hygienists Earn STAR	4
Navy Medicine Reservists Take Active Role in Job Placements	5

Items of Interest:

- **May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month.** Since 1983, the nation has observed National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. This month provides an opportunity to draw attention to physical activity as an integral part to a healthy and productive life and celebrate participation in sports and hundreds of physical activities. For more information, visit the following web site:
www.fitness.gov
- **Hurricane Season just around the corner.** Hurricane Season 2005 is fast approaching. To be prepared for the possibility of a hurricane this summer, stock-up on batteries, flashlights, a portable radio, first-aid supplies, non-perishable foods, and water. For more information about Hurricane Season 2005, visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency Web site:
www.fema.gov
- **May is National Allergy and Asthma Awareness Month.** It's Time to take an active role in managing your allergies and asthma. For more information, visit the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology:
www.aaaai.org

Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

A Public Affairs Publication of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

DoD Announces Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations

By Christine A. Mahoney, BUMED Public Affairs Office

Washington – The following Navy Medicine facilities were included in Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 recommendations announced Friday, May 13. These recommendations are now under review by the independent BRAC commission.

The following Navy Medical facilities are relocating to Fort Sam Houston, TX: Naval School Health Sciences San Diego Enlisted Training; Medical Enlisted Basic Training from Great Lakes, IL; Naval Institute for Dental and Biomedical Research; Naval School Health Sciences Portsmouth Enlisted Training. The following medical facilities

are relocating to the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda: Tertiary Medical Services at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, thus establishing Bethesda as a National Military Medical Center; Pathology Outsourcing Program Management Office at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; Legal Medicine Program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; DoD Research Facilities from leased spaces in Arlington, Va.; Alexandria, Va.; Fort Belvoir, Va.; and Durham, NC.

The following medical facilities are being disestablished: Navy Health Care Center Groton, Ct., relocating applicable support elements to Branch Medical Clinic

(Continued on page 3)

BRAC Time Line:

There are many significant events taking place over the next several months.

- **July 1, 2005** – The Comptroller General will transmit to the Congressional Defense Committees, a report containing a detailed analysis of the SECDEF's recommendations.
- **September 8, 2005** – The BRAC Commission sends the President a report containing its findings and conclusions based on a review of the SECDEF's recommendations.
- **September 23, 2005** – By this date, the President approves or disapproves the recommendations. If the President approves, the recommendations are binding after 45 legislative days, unless Congress enacts joint resolution for disapproval.

- **October 20, 2005** – By this date, if the President disapproves, the Commission must submit revised recommendations to the President.
- **November 7, 2005** – By this date, the President approves the revised recommendations and transmits approval to Congress or the process ends. The recommendations become binding 45 legislative days after Presidential transmission or adjournment, unless Congress enacts a joint resolution of disapproval.
- **April 15, 2006** – BRAC Commission terminates.

For more information about BRAC, visit the following Web site at www.defenselink.mil/BRAC.

The Navy Nurse Corps Marks 97 Year Anniversary: A Historical Perspective

By Andre' B. Sobocinski, BUMED
Office of the Historian

Washington - The Navy celebrates the 97th year of its prestigious Nurse Corps. The Navy Nurse Corps was established by an Act of Congress on May 13, 1908; and 20 out of the 40 women who applied to the Corps were accepted. In the same year, Esther Hasson, a former Army nurse, was chosen by President Theodore Roosevelt's physician and Navy Surgeon General Presley Rixey, as the first superintendent of these nurses, who were called the "Sacred Twenty."

Before the Navy Nurse Corps was conceived, Congress passed an act establishing "Marine" (i.e., Navy) hospitals. To ensure these medical facilities were properly administered, Dr. William Paul Crillon Barton penned *A Treatise for Containing a Plan for the Internal Organization and Government of Marine Hospitals*. In this military medical text, the young surgeon not only recommended the hiring of female nurses in the Navy, but al-

sodeveloped a list of responsibilities for these nurses. According to Barton, Navy nurses were to be "women of humane dispositions and tender manners, active and healthy...neat and clean...and without any vices of any description. They were to administer medicine and diets prescribed for the sick. . .be watchful of the sick at all hours. . .keep their wards clean." Dr. Barton also recommended that male nurses, or "orderly-men", should assist female nurses in caring for the sick and injured. Some of Barton's recommendations would be echoed in the first "Regulations and Instructions for the Nurse Corps, U.S. Navy" published in 1909.

The concept of military nursing certainly had been around since the days of the Revolutionary War when many Continental Army hospitals were staffed by "matrons," also known as nurses. It is also interesting to note that Dr. Barton had served as the medical officer aboard the frigate *USS United States*, which by some accounts

(Continued on page 5)



1918 - Navy Nurse Hazel Herringshaw stands with two of her patients. The Navy celebrates the 97th year of its prestigious Nurse Corps with the Corps Anniversary on Friday, May 13. After 97 years of faithful service, the Navy Nurse Corps continues their tradition and commitment to providing the medical care to our nation's Sailors and Marines, both on the home-front and in the trenches on the front lines overseas. Navy File Photo provided by Andre' B. Sobocinski, BUMED Office of the Historian.

DoD to Resume Anthrax Vaccinations

From the United States Department
of Defense

Washington — The Department of Defense announced a resumption of its Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program (AVIP) under the conditions set forth in the emergency use authorization (EUA) issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Jan. 27, 2005.

Based on the implementing memorandum signed by the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, April 29, military commanders may resume the vaccination program upon authorization by their service. The directive memos is available at: <http://www.anthrax.mil/eua>.

The implementing program requires commanders to follow EUA conditions very carefully, providing military members both education

on the program and an option to refuse the vaccination without penalty.

Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said this directive "is a significant step that allows the department to resume this vital protection measure for military personnel, who are at increased risk of exposure to an anthrax attack. We are pleased to be able to again protect our personnel against anthrax."

On April 6, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted the government's motion to modify the court's AVIP injunction against mandatory anthrax vaccination from Oct. 27, 2004. This modification allowed the department to resume its anthrax vaccine program to prevent inhalation anthrax for designated personnel.

Once vaccinations begin, DoD

will provide an education and information program, including a FDA-approved brochure, to inform vaccine recipients and healthcare providers that FDA has authorized the emergency use of anthrax vaccine to prevent inhalation anthrax. Personnel will also be informed about the vaccine's benefits and side effects before they are asked to decide about vaccination.

Vaccinations during the period of the EUA will be limited to military units designated for homeland bioterrorism defense, to U.S. forces assigned to the Central Command area of responsibility, and Korea.

Anthrax is a deadly infection, and the vaccine is an important force protection measure. In the fall of 2001, 22 cases of anthrax resulted from attacks with anthrax spores. Five people died in these attacks.

Hospital Corpsman Earns Bronze Star for Providing Combat Care to Iraqi Troops

By Loren Barnes, Naval Hospital Jacksonville

Jacksonville, Fla.— Chief Hospital Corpsman Byron D. Rowe was awarded the Bronze Star Medal on behalf of the President George W. Bush, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal (With "Valor" Device) from the Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld at a ceremony aboard Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla., May 6.

Rowe was praised in the awards citations for exceptionally meritorious service in connection with combat operations as senior medical advisor for the Iraqi Military Academy Al-Rustamiyah and the 1st Brigade, Iraqi Intervention Force while deployed with the U.S. Army's Multi-National Security Transition Command –Iraq (MNSTC-Iraq), in support of operations Iraqi Freedom II from Sept. 29, 2004 to March 27, 2005.

The citations focused on Rowe's

actions during a period between Nov. 8 and 10, 2004. The Iraqi 1st Brigade troops came under fire from terrorists trying to drive them from their positions and desynchronize Coalition Force operations. Braving incoming small arms fire, rockets and mortars, Rowe went from man to man, encouraging the Iraqi troops to hold their ground. His encouragement to the troops and their leadership ensured that they did not withdraw and that vital staff and logistics resources remained easily accessible to the 1st Brigade throughout the battle.

Upon returning to the Iraqi Military Academy, Rowe worked tirelessly to improve the level of care provided to the officer cadets.

"There was great enthusiasm among the Iraqi soldiers whom we trained to be medics and the majority of them expressed a true desire to take over their own military operations," Rowe said. "They showed an appreciation for our be-

ing there to help with their efforts. I left with a good sense that we helped some people who were truly in need of our help," he added.

On receiving his medals Rowe said, "I'm grateful for the opportunity I had to serve and take a leadership role in the Navy's mission. I'm also very grateful to be so recognized."



Chief Hospital Corpsman Byron Rowe receives citation for his meritorious service in Iraq from Naval Hospital Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. John Sentell. Navy photo provided by Loren Barnes, Naval Hospital Jacksonville

BRAC continued....

(Continued from page 2)

Kings Bay, Ga., and Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va.; Inpatient mission at Naval Station Great Lakes Medical Facility, converting the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory care center; Inpatient mission at MCAS Cherry Point, NC, Medical Facility. The hospital will convert to a clinic with an ambulatory care clinic; Navy Medical Clinic at Ingleside, TX; Navy Medical Center at Pascagoula, MS; Navy Healthcare Center at Portsmouth, NH; Navy Branch Clinic at New Brunswick, ME; Navy Clinic at Athens, GA; Navy Medical Clinic at Navy Support Activity New Orleans.

Medical facilities undergoing significant changes in operations: Consolidating Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory, Gorton, Ct., with Naval Medical Research Center, Forest Glenn Annex, Silver Spring, Md.; Naval Aero-medical Research Laboratory will relocate to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; NAS Pensacola will gain Naval

Undersea Medical Institute (NUMI) from New London, Ct.

"The facilities will continue to operate, providing the same level of care and support, until the recommendations are enacted into law," said Capt. Nancy Hight, MSC, Special Assistant for Base Realignment and Closure, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED).

"Navy Medicine fully appreciates the difficult change this will be for our military and civilian personnel, their families and our retired beneficiaries impacted by this. We will endeavor to make these base closures and realignments as smooth as possible," she said. "Local commands will be working directly with the affect commands and individuals to address all their concerns. Tricare benefits and access to care will be maintained."

These proposed changes for Navy Medicine are part of the larger plan of transforming DoD's infrastructure to meet emerging mis-

sions and revised DoD strategies. This transformation includes combining like operations of the separate services; accommodating a redeploying force structure; taking a proactive stance in answering the ever-changing challenges that face national security; providing forward capabilities in operations, training and logistics; and enhancing combat effectiveness.

According to DoD, consolidating facilities will save billions of dollars, allowing DoD to focus funds on maintaining and modernizing installations needed to improve support for our forces, recruit quality personnel, modernize equipment and infrastructure, and develop the defenses necessary to meet 21st Century threats.

Current BRAC information can viewed at: www.bractransition.com and www.defenselink.mil/BRAC.

Navy Nurse Corps: 97 Years of Care and Commitment

By Christine A. Mahoney, BUMED
Public Affairs

Washington – The Navy Nurse Corps celebrated 97 years of devoted service May 13, with a force of 3,000 Active Duty and 2,000 Reserve nurses equipped to utilize their medical skills in support of their fellow Sailors and Marines on the home-front and at the front lines overseas.

"Navy Nurses must readily adapt and deliver superb medical throughout the battlefield continuum in support of operational and humanitarian missions," said Rear Adm. Nancy Lescavage, Director of the Navy Nurse Corps and Commander of the Naval Medical Education and Training Command, Bethesda, Md. "We provide care to support the medical mission on Navy Ships, the Hospital Ship, Fleet, Forward Resuscitative System, Surgical Companies and Surgical Teams. To do so, we must be personally and professionally vigilant

in maintaining our operational readiness."

A key component of maintaining operational readiness is education and training. "Our nurses are committed to having the right skills and training necessary to respond to a variety of medical situations," said Cmdr. Randolph Kirkland, Navy Nurse Corps Career Plans Officer. "In order to maintain superior medical treatment, the Nurse Corps has designed an annual training plan to meet an operational requirement of having the right mix of nurses with the right training and skills to care for our patients."

Combine training programs and the mutual sharing of clinical expertise across the federal, state and local sectors are beneficial in meeting Navy Medicine operational, humanitarian and conventional missions. The challenges of today have created a need to evolve the nursing role into a greater perspective which crosses the joint service and interagency world at all levels.

"The future of the Nurse Corps relies on the combined talent, expertise and leadership of our Navy Nurses in meeting our readiness mission, providing Force Health Protection now and into the future," said Lescavage. "Through our human capital strategy of alignment and agility, we shape the Nurse Corps with the right number of people in the right specialties, to meet the mission in all care environments. To do so, we must continuously monitor our capabilities, embrace innovations and maintain our competitive edge as savvy business professionals to meet challenges head-on during these rapidly changing times."

A Nurse's job is never routine, always demanding and a constant challenge. Service members, family members and veterans have no worries when it comes to receiving the best medical attention that they deserve because that is what Navy Nurses do: provide the best medical care, anytime anywhere.

Pensacola Dental Hygienists Earn STAR

By Rod Duren, Naval Hospital Pensacola Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Five Navy Dental Technicians and a former Hospital Corpsman assigned to Naval Hospital Pensacola graduated from the dental hygienist program at Pensacola Junior College (PJC).

The school is one of two schools in the country the Navy has contracted through the Selective Training And Readiness (STAR) program to send personnel to support the Navy and Marine Corps worldwide.

"This is a milestone for these new Navy dental hygienists," said Senior Chief Dental Technician Fred Eisenmann, Pensacola's military liaison and the senior enlisted leader for Naval Branch Health Clinic Corry Station.

"The new Navy Dental Hygienists' pinning culminates an intense 2-year Duty-Under-

Instruction program where they are accepted into the national Dental Hygienist fraternity," said Eisenmann. "They will shortly go operational for tours overseas and afloat to perform as providers for our Sailors and Marines."

Upon graduation, third class petty officers are automatically advanced to second class with their new dental hygienist specialty.

This year's graduating class included Dental Technician 3rd Class Laura Blanco, Dental Technician 2nd Class Renee Brown, Dental Technician 2nd Class Scheri Garrett, Dental Technician 3rd Class Beverly Owen, Dental Technician 3rd Class Willie Smith IV, and Dental Technician 2nd Class Jorge Restrepo, who was formerly a Hospital Corpsman.

Blanco, stationed at Submarine Base New London in Connecticut, before arriving in Pensacola, was the clinic's prophylaxis dental technician.

"Being able to see my own pa-

tients and know that my skills will help improve oral health care motivated me to pursue a career as a dental hygienist," said Blanco, the group's leading petty officer.

Between 12 and 15 dental hygienists join the fleet each year, said Master Chief Dental Technician Beverly Leedom, one of the enlisted leaders who oversee the program at the Navy Medicine Educational Training Command in Bethesda, Md.

The Navy hygienist community is relatively small, with only about 70 throughout the world.

"I'm very proud of each and every one of you for banding together and completing this arduous course of instruction," Eisenmann said to the new hygienists. "And would gladly serve with and lead each of you again given the chance."

Navy Medicine Reservists Take Active Role in Job Placement

By Christine A. Mahoney, BUMED
Public Affairs

Washington – Being recalled to active duty or participating in an Annual Training (AT) cycle is part of the life of a Navy Medicine Reservist. In order to make the most out of a Reservist's duty, the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) established the Medical Reserve Utilization Program (MEDRUMP). The purpose of the program is to assist both Navy Medical and Dental Reservists to match their education and job skills with an assignment in the fleet.

"The mission of the Medical and Dental Reserve has transformed from its traditional role of annual training cycles and monthly Reservist weekend duty to the ability to mobilize, not as an entire Reserve unit, but as an individual Reservist, to support Navy Medicine's mission across the board," said Cmdr. Rusty Stiles, Director, Operations and Reserve Utilization.

Navy Medicine established a Web-based management information system (MEDRUPMIS) to manage their Reserve manpower assets. A Commanding Officer (CO) or Office in Charge (OIC) of a Reservist unit can use MEDRUPMIS to keep track of job requirements that BUMED has identified for Navy Medical support worldwide. It is the responsibility of the CO or OIC to match a Reservist to a job requirement in MEDRUPMIS. This matching process is used for a Reservist's AT cycle and for active duty recall deployment.

"After Desert Storm, the Navy Medicine Community learned that calling up an entire Reservist unit and deploying the unit just to make certain the jobs are filled is not enough," said Stiles. "Today, we look at the individual and what skills, education and work experience that Medical or Dental Reservist has to offer to a specific job assignment. We want to match those

jobs with those Sailors who have the skills to do that job. It is about getting the job done by the most qualified person."

Reservists can assist in the "matching" process by creating a "dreamsheet". The "dreamsheet" allows Reservists to choose from job assignments of interest and matching those assignments with work skills, education and dates of availability. "We want to work with the Reservists to provide for them the best AT or active duty recall experience possible," said Stiles. "However, there are times when assignments are based on need. This need to fulfill the Navy Medicine's mission outweighs the wants of an individual. Our Reservists understand this and are proud to serve whenever and wherever they are called to."

Navy Medicine Reservists who want to learn more about MEDRUP can visit the following Web site at navymedicine.med.navy.mil.

Nurse Corps Anniversary...

(Continued from page 2)

was the first American ship to have female nurses aboard. According to the ship's log, signed May 10, 1813, a Mary Allen and a Mary Marshall served on board as "super-numeraries." This is 49 years before the four Sisters of the Order of the Holy Cross boarded the Navy hospital ship *Red Rover* as nurses, and 107 years before "official" Navy

nurses reported to the USS *Relief* becoming the "first women" to serve onboard a Navy ship.

In the official 97-year history of the Navy Nurse Corps there have been many accomplishments and distinctions; from the dynamic career of nurse Superintendent Lenah Higbee to the heroic POW nurses on Los Banos in World War II; from the first commissioned male Navy nurses in August 1965 to the promotion of Capt. Alene Duerk as the first Admiral of the Navy Nurse Corps in July 1972.

After 97 years of faithful service, the Navy Nurse Corps continues the tradition and commitment to providing medical care to our nation's Sailors and Marines, both on the home-front and in the trenches on the front lines overseas.



The Sacred Twenty in 1908. The Navy celebrates the 97th year of its prestigious Nurse Corps with the Corps Anniversary Friday, May 13. After 97 years of faithful service, the Navy Nurse Corps continues their tradition and commitment to providing the medical care to our nation's Sailors and Marines, both on the home-front and in the trenches on the front lines overseas. *Navy File Photo provided by Andre' B. Sobocinski, BUMED Office of the Historian.*



Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
2300 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20372-5300

Public Affairs Office
Phone: 202-762-3317
Fax: 202-762-1705